PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating messages to a mobile station by a wireless communication system providing access to a decentralized data network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sequence of messages;

providing for each respective message a respective signature, the respective signature being separate from and generated by hashing the respective message; and

comparing the respective signature for any given respective message with at least one signature.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the respective signature for a respective message.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message; and

sleeping after receiving the signature.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message; and

sleeping after receiving the respective signature if the respective signature matches a corresponding signature from the at least one signature.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message;

sleeping after receiving the respective signature if the respective signature matches a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

transmitting the respective message, wherein sleeping occurs while the respective message is being transmitted.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message; and

sleeping if each respective signature matches a corresponding signature from the at least one signature.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

sleeping if each respective signature matches a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

transmitting each respective message, wherein sleeping occurs while each respective message is being transmitted.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message; and

listening for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message; and

listening for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message;

listening for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received; and

sleeping after the respective message is received.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message;

listening for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

sleeping after the respective message is received; and

waking up after sleeping.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for a respective message;

listening for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

sleeping after the respective message is received; and

waking up after sleeping for 5.2 seconds.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the mobile station the respective signature for a respective message;

listening at the mobile station for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

sleeping at the mobile station after the respective message is received.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message; and

listening for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message; and

listening for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

sleeping after the respective message is received.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received; and

sleeping for 5.2 seconds after the respective message is received.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received; [[and]]

sleeping after the respective message is received; and

waking up after sleeping.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received;

sleeping after the respective message is received; and

waking up after sleeping for 5.2 seconds.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the mobile station the respective signature for each respective message;

listening at the mobile station for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received;

sleeping at the mobile station after the respective message is received; and

waking at the mobile station up after sleeping.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the mobile station the respective signature for each respective message;

listening at the mobile station for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received;

sleeping at the mobile station after the respective message is received; and

waking at the mobile station up after sleeping for 5.2 seconds.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the mobile station the respective signature for each respective message, wherein the respective signature for each respective message was transmitted by the wireless communication system;

listening at the mobile station for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received;

wherein the respective message was transmitted by the wireless communication system;

sleeping at the mobile station after the respective message is received; and

waking at the mobile station up after sleeping.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the mobile station the respective signature for each respective message, wherein the respective signature for each respective message was transmitted by the wireless communication system;

listening at the mobile station for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received;

wherein the respective message was transmitted by the wireless communication system;

sleeping at the mobile station after the respective message is received; and

waking at the mobile station up after sleeping for 5.2 seconds.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for a first respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

listening for a second respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done until the second respective message is received, and wherein listening for the second respective message occurs after listening for the first respective message.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for a first respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

listening for a second respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done until the second respective message is received, and wherein listening for the second respective message occurs after listening for the first respective message; and

sleeping after the second respective message is received.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for a first respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

listening for a second respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, and wherein listening for the second respective message occurs after listening for the first respective message;

listening for a third respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening for the third respective message is done after listening for the second respective message; and wherein listening for the third respective message is done until the third respective message is received; and

sleeping after the third respective message is received.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for each respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening stops if there are no more messages whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

sleeping after listening stops.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for each respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening stops if there are no more messages whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

sleeping after listening stops; and

waking up after sleeping.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the respective signature for each respective message;

listening for each respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening stops if there are no more messages whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

sleeping after listening stops; and

waking up 5.2 seconds after sleeping.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the mobile station the respective signature for each respective message, wherein the respective signature for each respective message is transmitted by the wireless communication system;

listening at the mobile station for each respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening stops if there are no more messages whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

wherein each respective message is transmitted by the wireless communication system;

sleeping at the mobile station after listening stops; and

waking up at the mobile station after sleeping.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the mobile station the respective signature for each respective message, wherein the respective signature for each respective message is transmitted by the wireless communication system;

listening at the mobile station for each respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening stops if there are no more messages whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

wherein each respective message is transmitted by the wireless communication system;

sleeping at the mobile station after listening stops; and

waking up at the mobile station 5.2 seconds after sleeping.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

waking up at the mobile station; and

receiving the respective signature for a respective message at the mobile station.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

waking up at the mobile station;

receiving the respective signature for a respective message at the mobile station; and

listening for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

waking up at the mobile station;

receiving the respective signature for a respective message at the mobile station;

listening for the respective message if the respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received; and

sleeping after the respective message is received.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

waking up at the mobile station;

receiving the respective signature for each respective message at the mobile station;

listening for a respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening is done only until the respective message is received; and

sleeping after the respective message is received.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

waking up at the mobile station;

receiving the respective signature for each respective message at the mobile station;

listening for each respective message whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein listening stops if there are no more messages to be whose respective signature does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

sleeping at the mobile station listening stops.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of messages is a sequence of overhead messages.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of messages is periodically transmitted by the wireless communication system.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of messages is a periodically transmitted by the wireless communication system.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of messages is transmitted to at least one mobile station.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each message is embedded in a message capsule having a plurality of messages.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising hashing each message to generate a first hash, wherein hashing comprises rehashing any message if the first hash of any message matches any of at least one corresponding signature from the at least one signature, wherein the at least one corresponding signature was generated within a time period T_{Delta} before commencing providing for each message a respective signature.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising hashing each message to generate a first hash, wherein hashing comprises adding a random value to the first hash if the first hash of any message matches any of at least one corresponding signature from the at least one signature, and wherein the at least one corresponding signature was generated within a time period T_{Delta} before commencing providing for each message a respective signature.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising hashing each message to generate a first hash, wherein hashing comprises rehashing any message with a random value if the first hash of any message matches any of at least one corresponding signature from the at least one signature, and wherein the at least one corresponding signature was generated within a time period T_{Delta} before commencing providing for each message a respective signature.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising hashing each message to generate a first hash, wherein hashing comprises rehashing any message with a random value if the first hash of any message matches any of at least one corresponding signature from the at least one signature,

wherein the at least one corresponding signature was generated within a time period T_{Delta} before commencing providing for each message a respective signature, and wherein the time period T_{Delta} is larger than the largest allowed sleep time of any mobile station communicating with the wireless communication system.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising hashing each message to generate a sixteen bit value for the respective signature.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising hashing each message to generate a thirty-two bit value for the respective signature.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising giving the respective signature a value stored in a counter.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising:

incrementing a counter; and

giving the respective signature a value stored in the counter.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ further comprising:

incrementing a counter if any given message does not match a corresponding first message, wherein the corresponding first message was generated at a time before commencing providing a sequence of messages; and

giving the respective signature a value stored in the counter.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the sequence of messages includes an overhead message indicative of base station parameters in the wireless communication system.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the sequence of messages includes an overhead message indicative of base station parameters in the wireless communication system, and wherein the base station parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the sequence of messages includes an overhead message indicative of the wireless communication system's system wide parameters.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the sequence of messages includes an overhead message indicative of the wireless communication system's system wide parameters, and wherein the system wide parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the sequence of messages at the mobile station.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the sequence of messages at the mobile station[[,]] and ~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ hashing each message at the mobile station.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving any given one of the sequence of messages at the mobile station[[;]]

~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ and hashing each message at the mobile station to generate a first hash for each message,

wherein hashing comprises rehashing any message using a random value if the first hash of any message matches any of at least one corresponding signature from the at least one signature; and

wherein the at least one corresponding signature was generated within a time period T_{Delta} before commencing providing for each message a respective signature.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving any given one of the sequence of messages at the mobile station[[;]]

~~wherein providing for each message a respective signature comprises~~ and hashing each message at the mobile station to generate a first hash for each message,

wherein hashing comprises rehashing any message using a random value if the first hash of any message matches any of at least one corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

wherein the at least one corresponding signature was generated within a time period T_{Delta} before commencing providing for each message a respective signature; and

wherein T_{Delta} is longer than the longest allowed sleep time for any mobile station communicating with the wireless communication system.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing at least one stored message at the mobile station;

receiving the sequence of messages at the mobile station;

wherein each of the at least one stored message has a corresponding message in the sequence of messages;

~~wherein providing for each respective message a respective signature comprises~~ hashing each message at the mobile station to generate a first hash for each message;

wherein hashing comprises rehashing any message using a random value if the first hash of any message matches any of at least one corresponding signature from the at least one signature;

wherein the at least one corresponding signature was generated within a time period T_{Delta} before commencing providing for each message a respective signature;

wherein T_{Delta} is longer the longest allowed sleep time of any mobile station communicating with the wireless system; and

replacing any message from the at least one stored message with a corresponding message from the sequence of messages received at the mobile station if the respective signature of the corresponding message does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing at least one stored message at the mobile station;

receiving the sequence of messages at the mobile station;

wherein each of the at least one stored message has a corresponding message in the sequence of messages; and

replacing any message from the at least one stored message with a corresponding message from the sequence of messages received at the mobile station if the respective signature of the corresponding message does not match a corresponding signature from the at least one signature.

63. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

transmitting a message capsule over the forward channel;

generating a signature for the message capsule, the signature being generated by hashing the message capsule; and

transmitting the signature in a separate signature capsule over the forward channel~~; and~~

~~comparing the signature with one or more signatures previously stored at the mobile station~~.

64. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

receiving ~~transmitting~~ a message capsule over the forward channel;

calculating a signature from the message capsule at the mobile station; and

comparing the signature with one or more signatures previously stored at the mobile station.

65. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, comprising:

a base station configured to:

transmit a message capsule over the forward channel;

generate a signature for the message capsule, the signature being generated by hashing the message capsule; and

transmit a signature in a separate signature capsule over the forward channel~~; and~~

~~a mobile station configured to compare the signature with one or more signatures previously stored at said mobile station~~.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65, wherein said mobile station is further configured to sleep if the signature matches one of the previously stored signatures.

67. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep while the message capsule is being transmitted over the forward channel.

68. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65, wherein said mobile station is further configured to listen for the message capsule if the signature does not match one of the previously stored signatures.

69. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said mobile station is configured to listen only until the message capsule is received.

70. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep after the message capsule is received.

71. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 70, wherein said mobile station is configured to wake up after sleeping.

72. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 70, wherein said mobile station is configured to wake up after sleeping for 5.2 seconds.

73. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said mobile station is configured to listen for a second message capsule whose signature does not match one of the previously stored signatures, wherein the listening is done until the second message capsule is received.

74. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep after the second message capsule is received.

75. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein said mobile station is further configured to listen for a third message capsule whose signature does not match one of the previously stored signatures, wherein the listening is done until the third message capsule is received.

76. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep after the third message capsule is received.

77. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said mobile station is configured to stop listening if there are no more message capsules whose signatures do not match one of the previously stored signatures.

78. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65, wherein the message capsule is one of a sequence of message capsules carrying overhead messages.

79. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the sequence is periodically transmitted by the wireless communication system.

80. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the sequence is aperiodically transmitted by the wireless communication system.

81. (Cancelled).

82. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[81]] 65, wherein the hashing comprises hashing the message capsule to generate a first hash and rehashing the message capsule if the first hash of the message matches a signature of a previous message capsule.

83. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the rehashing comprises adding a random value to the first hash.

84. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the rehashing is done if the signature of a previous message capsule was generated within a time period T_{Delta}.

85. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein the time period T_{Delta} is larger than the largest allowed sleep time of any mobile station that could be communicated with the wireless communication system.

86. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 81, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a sixteen bit value for the signature.

87. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 81, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a thirty-two bit value for the signature.

88. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65, ~~wherein~~ further comprising ~~the signature is generated by~~ assigning a value stored in a counter to the signature.

89. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 88, wherein the counter is incremented after a signature is generated.

90. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 88, wherein the counter is incremented if the message capsule is different than a previously transmitted message capsule.

91. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65, wherein the message comprises an overhead message indicative of base station parameters in the wireless communication system.

92. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 91, wherein the base station parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

93. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65, wherein the message comprises an overhead message indicative of system-wide parameters of the wireless communication system.

94. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 93, wherein the system wide parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

95. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, the apparatus~~ comprising:

~~a base station configured to transmit a message capsule over the forward channel; and~~

[[said]] a mobile station configured to:

receiving a message capsule over the forward channel;

generate a signature from the message capsule; and

compare the signature with one or more signatures previously stored at the mobile station.

96. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein said mobile station is further configured to sleep if the signature matches one of the previously stored signatures.

97. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 96, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep while the message capsule is being transmitted over the forward channel.

98. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein said mobile station is further configured to listen for the message capsule if the signature does not match one of the previously stored signatures.

99. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 98, wherein said mobile station is configured to listen only until the message capsule is received.

100. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 99, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep after the message capsule is received.

101. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 100, wherein said mobile station is configured to wake up after sleeping.

102. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 100, wherein said mobile station is configured to wake up after sleeping for 5.2 seconds.

103. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 98, wherein said mobile station is configured to listen for a second message capsule whose signature does not match one of the previously stored signatures, wherein the listening is done until the second message capsule is received.

104. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 103, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep after the second message capsule is received.

105. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 103, wherein said mobile station is further configured to listen for a third message capsule whose signature does not match one of the previously stored signatures, wherein the listening is done until the third message capsule is received.

106. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 105, wherein said mobile station is configured to sleep after the third message capsule is received.

107. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 98, wherein said mobile station is further configured to stop listening if there are no more message capsules whose signatures do not match one of the previously stored signatures.

108. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the message capsule is one of a sequence of message capsules carrying overhead messages.

109. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 108, wherein the sequence is periodically transmitted by the wireless communication system.

110. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 108, wherein the sequence is aperiodically transmitted by the wireless communication system.

111. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the signature is generated by hashing the message capsule.

112. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 111, wherein the hashing comprises hashing the message capsule to generate a first hash and rehashing the message capsule if the first hash of the message matches a signature of a previous message capsule.

113. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 112, wherein the rehashing comprises adding a random value to the first hash.

114. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 112, wherein the rehashing is done if the signature of a previous message capsule was generated within a time period T_{Delta}.

115. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 114, wherein the time period T_{Delta} is larger than the largest allowed sleep time of any mobile station that could be communicated with the wireless communication system.

116. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 111, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a sixteen bit value for the signature.

117. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 111, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a thirty-two bit value for the signature.

118. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the signature is generated by assigning a value stored in a counter.

119. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein the counter is incremented after a signature is generated.

120. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, further comprising incrementing the counter if the message capsule is different than a previously transmitted message capsule.

121. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the message comprises an overhead message indicative of base station parameters in the wireless communication system.

122. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 121, wherein the base station parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

123. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the message comprises an overhead message indicative of system-wide parameters of the wireless communication system.

124. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 123, wherein the system wide parameters include system parameters, access parameters, channel list, and neighbor list parameters.

125. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of overhead messages includes at least one overhead message, and wherein providing the signature comprises providing the signature as a function of the at least one overhead message.

126. (New) A method for communicating messages to a mobile station by a base station, comprising:

providing a set of overhead messages in an overhead message capsule;

providing a signature corresponding to the set of overhead messages, the signature provided in a signature capsule; and

changing the signature in response to modifying the set of overhead messages.

127. (New) The method of claim 126 wherein the set of overhead messages includes at least one overhead message, and wherein providing the signature comprises providing the signature as a function of the at least one overhead message.

128. (New) A method for communicating messages in a wireless communication system, comprising:

providing a set of overhead messages in an overhead message capsule; and

providing an overhead message indicator corresponding to the set of overhead messages, the overhead message indicator provided in a capsule; and

changing the overhead message indicator in response to modifying the set of overhead messages.

129. (New) A base station apparatus for communicating messages, comprising:

means for providing a set of overhead messages in an overhead message capsule;

means for providing a signature corresponding to the set of overhead messages, the signature provided in a signature capsule;

means for modifying the set of overhead messages in the overhead message capsule; and

means for changing the signature in response to modifying the set of overhead messages.

130. (New) A base station apparatus for communicating messages, comprising:

means for providing a set of overhead messages in an overhead message capsule; and

means for providing an overhead message indicator corresponding to the set of overhead messages, the overhead message indicator provided in a capsule; and

means for changing the overhead message indicator in response to modifying the set of overhead messages.

131. (New) A mobile station apparatus for receiving messages from a base station, comprising:

means for receiving a set of overhead messages in an overhead message capsule;

means for generating a signature corresponding to the set of overhead messages; and

means for comparing the signature with at least one previously stored signature.

132. (New) A mobile station apparatus for receiving messages from a base station, comprising:

means for receiving a set of overhead messages in an overhead message capsule;

means for generating a overhead message indicator corresponding to the set of overhead messages; and

means for comparing the overhead message indicator with at least one previously stored overhead message indicator.